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NEWS RELEASE

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WTO PROTESTS FEATURED IN UM PHOTO EXHIBIT

MISSOULA--

The collective determination of Seattle's World Trade Organization protesters is pictured in a new exhibit at The University of Montana.

Black-and-white photographs by recent photojournalism graduate Melissa Hart are on display in the University Center through May. "Women in Action: Participants in Protest Against the World Trade Organization" documents last November's protest, which drew some 35,000 people to Seattle to oppose WTO policies.

"The focus of this exhibit is on women because women's intrepid efforts to bring social change and improve our local and global communities are often overlooked," Hart wrote in her artist's statement.

The collection's 20 framed photographs are hung in the student organization suite, located on the second floor of the UC. The show is free and open to the public during regular UC hours, 6 a.m. to midnight on weekdays and 9 a.m. to midnight on weekends.

Hart said her photographs focus on the creativity and diversity of those who came to Seattle to speak up for what they believe, rather than on the violent aspects reported in the mainstream media.

"I intend for these pictures to take [the viewer] back to Seattle, to the heart of the protests, to see another angle of what took place on the streets," she wrote. "These portraits show ... those who descended on Seattle to bring change to make our world a better place."

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